

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 DHA-05

CU-04 DOTE-00 /130 W

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R 191502Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3786

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9350

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, CSCE, PFOR, AU

SUBJ: EUROPEAN REACTION TO CSCE AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS ON ENERGY AND
TRANSPORT

REFS: A) GENEVA 8845, B) VIENNA 9053, C) STATE 236124

1. RELIABLE, KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY OCTOBER 17 THAT GOA IS SURPRISED AND DISMAYED OVER NEARLY UNIFORM UNENTHUSIASTIC OR NEGATIVE REACTION OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO PROPOSALS ON ENERGY AND TRANSPORT WHICH AUSTRIAN RECENTLY TABLED AT BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE.

2. GOA HAS HAD IN LAST TWO WEEKS SMALL MFA DELEGATION TOURING WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN AND, AS HAS UNEXPECTEDLY DEVELOPED, TO DEFEND POLITICAL/ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS. DELEGATION'S TELEGRAM REPORTING ON STOPS IN EC CAPITALS REGISTERED "UNENTHUSIASTIC" TO NEARLY NEGATIVE REACTION IN 7 OF 9 EC CAPITALS TRANSPORT PROPOSALS, WHICH FORESEES OPENING RHINE/MAIN DANUBE CANAL TO SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN TRAFFIC, WAS TREATED IN SUCH FASHION IN SEVERAL CAPITALS AS TO SUGGEST AUSTRIANS WERE MOVING TROJAN HORSE ON BEHALF OF EAST.

3. REACTION FROM SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS HAS ALSO BEEN LARGELY NEGATIVE, ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE. SOVIETS REPORTEDLY SPOKE "UNKINDLY" OF AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS, IMPLYING THAT AUSTRIA, ACTING AT BEHEST OF WEST, HAD PUT FORWARD THESE PROPOSALS WITH AIM OF SCUTTLING BREZHNEV'S PROPOSALS. SOVIETS CONFIDENTIAL

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WERE PARTICULARLY CAUSTIC OVER IDEA THAT, IN ACCORD WITH AUSTRIAN TRANSPORT PROPOSAL, SHIPS FLYING FLAG OF GERMANY, ENEMY OF WORLD WAR II, WOULD BE PLYING USSR INLAND WATERWAY. REACTION FROM EE CAPITALS, WHILE MORE SUBDUED, WAS PRETTY MUCH IN LINE WITH THEME THAT AUSTRIA WAS SOMEHOW PLAYING ROLE OF STALKING HORSE FOR WEST ON PROPOSALS WHICH, AS CAST BY GOA, WERE OBVIOUSLY NON-VIABLE.

4. SOURCE NOTED THAT MFNA, WHILE PERSONALLY SKEPTICAL ALL ALONG ABOUT UTILITY OF AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS, DID TRY TO FLESH THEM OUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE HAD CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT EVER SINCE HE FIRST RAISED THEM AT HELSINKI. SOURCE THOUGHT THAT GOA WOULD NOW ADOPT TACTIC OF "GRACIOUS RETREAT" FROM PUSHING PROPOSALS AND ATTEMPT INSTEAD TO FOLD THEM INTO SOME LARGER FORUM (E.G. ECE) FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. WOLF

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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